

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Information on Signal Reserve Training in Poland

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. [redacted] report containing miscellaneous information on signal reserve training in Poland.

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ARMY review completed.

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	X	AIR	#X	FBI	AEC						
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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION ON SIGNAL RESERVE TRAINING IN POLAND<sup>1</sup>

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Listed below are locations mentioned throughout this report; included are the geographical and where available, UTM coordinates.

BIALOBZEGI	(N52-27, E21-04)
CZERSKI	(N53-48, E17-59)
JAWORZE	(N53-20, E15-41)
LODZ	(N51-45, E19-28) (UTM CC 9437)
WALCZ	(N53-16, E16-28) (UTM WV 9804)
ZEGRZE	(N52-28, E21-02) (UTM ED 0112)

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1. General Information

Training of Signal Reserve personnel in Poland was mandatory and was given yearly for a period of three months to both officers and enlisted men. This was true of all branches of the service and the only exceptions were personnel in certain occupations [redacted] who received exemption. Personnel in Signal Reserve as well as in the other branches of service remained in reserve status until the age of 50.

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[redacted]  
training was conducted in different locations [redacted] In 1953 it was conducted at ZEGRZE, in 1954 at JAWORZE and in 1956 at BIALOBZEGI.

The responsibilities and duties of Reserve Signal officers in the rank of junior lieutenant or lieutenant was usually as a platoon leader, who was considered to be a specialist in radio, wire or telegraphy.

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2. Communication School at ZEGRZE

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## a. Courses Taught

The facilities at the communications school at ZEGRZE were used for the instruction of various categories of personnel. Personnel attending this school were officers from the regular army, the officers reserve corps, signal OCS cadets and two year enlisted conscripts.

(1). Regular army signal officers were sent to ZEGRZE to attend a refresher course in communications. The method used in the selection of these officers for attendance at ZEGRZE was unknown. [redacted] the course was given each summer, length of course unknown. [redacted]

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[redacted] Attendance at the officers refresher training was often used as a basis for promotion.

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(2). The officers reserve training course was given each summer for those personnel of the officers signal reserve corps who had either been discharged from the regular army or had received commissions through the ROTC program. Qualified personnel were ordered to this school by their local WKRI. [redacted]

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(3). The signal OCS was operated for those personnel selected for attendance from the regular army or from reserve units. [redacted]

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[redacted] The OCS course was of two years duration.

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(4). The signal school course for two year conscripts was for one year; the second year was spent in a regular army unit.

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## b. Operation of the School

[redacted] the school operated the entire year.

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[redacted] during July and August an unknown number of the cadre would remain at the school for further instructing. All the cadet students and the major portion of the cadre would join personnel from the General Staff Academy as its signal unit and attend a month long summer maneuvers. [redacted]

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[redacted] some of the cadet students and part of the cadre were given leave during August. A new class began the first of September. [redacted] there was another group of reserve personnel scheduled to arrive in ZEGRZE after the departure of his group.

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[redacted] the training periods of three months was identical for each group of reserve personnel. [redacted] based [redacted] on the fact that a signal reserve officer never returned to ZEGRZE.

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b. School Medical Facilities and Examinations

[REDACTED] not required to take a physical examination, but all personnel were required to take two typhoid shots at the school clinic before they began this training.

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The clinic was located in an unidentified building on the school grounds. It was staffed by two doctors and six male nurses, ranks unknown. The clinic consisted of two rooms with about six beds each, an examination room, an office for the doctors and a bath room. [REDACTED] only mild cases of sickness were treated here, the more serious cases being sent to the MON Hospital in WARSAW. [REDACTED] no other medical facilities available.

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c. Housing, Clothing Pay and Mess Facilities

The 50 reserve officers were assigned to the 1st School Battalion, one of two battalions at the school, they formed a reserve officer student company which was commanded by a reserve officer [REDACTED]. The company was divided into two platoons, each with a platoon leader, also a reserve officer, who was in charge of marching the platoon to all school activities, mess, and any other occasion for which a formation might have been required.

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The reserve officers were required to perform all sorts of menial tasks around the barracks, such as policing the area, making their own beds and changing their own linens. One civilian woman came into the barracks, after the officers had left for their day's activities, to clean the floors, windows, stairwells, etc.

The student supply room was located on the first floor of the barracks. One enlisted man was assigned to the supply room; he performed the duties of Supply Sergeant, First Sergeant and Company Clerk. He received the reservists' civilian clothing and issued them military clothing in exchange. Each reservist was issued the following items of military equipment and clothing:

- 1 Summer uniform (khaki)
- 1 Field cap
- 1 Pair leather knee-length boots
- 1 Set underwear
- 2 Leather belts
- 1 Towel
- 2 Handkerchiefs
- 2 Blankets
- 2 Sheets
- 1 Pillow case
- 1 Rucksack
- 1 Spoon
- 1 Canteen with wool cover
- 1 Meat canister
- 1 Gas mask
- 1 Pair gym shorts

No weapons were issued; however, prior to range firing students were issued arms from a central weapons pool; they were returned after range firing.

[REDACTED] company was required to eat in the same mess hall with the enlisted men because the regular army officers at the school refused to eat with the reservists or to mingle with them socially.

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All reserve officers who held the rank of warrant officer (chorarzy) were paid 600 zlotys per month in advance. From this 600 zlotys they were required to pay 450 zlotys per month for assistance.

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#### d. Daily Schedule

the following was a typical duty day for reservists, and it was approximately the same for the OCS cadets and the regular army officers taking training at the installation:

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0500 Reveille	1500 - 1530 Lunch
0505 - 0525 Physical training	1530 - 1600 Free time
0530 - 0555 Personal toilet	1600 - 1730 Study period
0600 - 0615 Inspection	1730 - 1915 Commanders time
0615 - 0630 Political information	1930 - 2000 Supper
0630 - 0655 Breakfast	2000 - 2130 Free time
0700 - 0710 School formation	2130 - 2145 Orders of the day
0715 - 1445 Training	

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Training periods were of 50 minutes duration with a 10 minute break every hour.

The Saturday training schedule was from 0500 to 1200 hours; the afternoons and evenings were free time. Sunday reveille was at 0600 hours, the entire day was free time.

#### e. Recreational Facilities and Leave and Pass Policy

Recreational facilities at the school were limited to an occasional movie in the school auditorium, and about once a month a stage show was brought in from WARSAW. Stage shows usually consisted of a short play, ballet or operetta. Students were allowed to use the school library which was limited in its selection of books. Each barracks had a reading room which was usually supplied with local newspapers. Students used the reading room as a writing room.

Passes were very limited and could only be obtained two or three times during the three month period. At no time could more than a certain number of students be away from the post on pass. Leaves were not granted unless of an emergency nature and then only after an investigation had been made of the circumstances surrounding the request.

#### f. Instructors

All instruction given at ZEGRZE was conducted by regular army officers who were specialists in their particular fields.

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the instruction given was excellent and the instructors were well qualified.

#### g. Classrooms

Classrooms could accommodate about 25 students. Reservists always received instruction separately from the OCS cadets and the regular army officers although each group received essentially the same instruction.

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**h. Training****(1). Non-Technical**

[redacted] the reservists received general training in politics, army regulations, close order drill, map study, tactical training, infantry structure and the TOE of various units.

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Reservists were taken to the firing range two or three times during the three month period for familiarization and firing of small arms.

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**(2). Technical**

All technical communications training received by the reservists was based on infantry tactics. [redacted] no information on communications in either armored or artillery units. Infantry units from company to regiment were studied with emphasis on communications at regimental level.

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**(a). Equipment**

Radio communications equipment used at the school consisted of the A-7-A, RBM-1, and the RSBF transmitter/receiver. Phone equipment consisted of the AP-48 Polish phone which [redacted] was the same as the Soviet TAI-43, and LP-10 and LP-30 switchboards which [redacted] were similar to the Soviet K-10 and PK-30. Telegraph equipment consisted of the Soviet ST-35 telegraph set and numerous Soviet "Bodo" sets.

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Instruction on technical equipment consisted of an undetermined number of hours of classroom instruction followed by field exercises. Classroom instruction consisted of lectures on the capability of the sets, their uses in infantry communications nets, and considerable practice in tuning and operating them under supervision. Field instruction consisted of taking the various sets into the field, setting them up <sup>and</sup> establishing communications with other similar sets. They were taught that the A-7-A was used between the infantry company and its battalion, the RBM-1 was used from battalion to regiment and to division. The RSBF [redacted] was used at division level. [redacted] no information concerning the numerical distribution of any item of signal equipment.

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**(b). Radio Code and Voice Instruction**

Reservists received an average of eight hours per week instruction in International Morse code and an unknown number of hours instruction in the techniques of voice communications, keeping of log books, operating in a radio net, use of "Q" signals, and radio security practices. There were no

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**(3). Signal Tactics**

Signal Tactics instruction consisted of the following courses:

- Duties of signal personnel
- The mission of signal units
- Keeping schedules

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Communications networks diagrams  
 Types of communications networks  
 The use of radio versus wire  
 The preparation of and use of map coordinate codes,

[ ] no information on the number of hours spent on each of these subjects. Instruction in signal tactics stressed the full and complete understanding of equipment, with emphasis placed on the capability of each item of equipment. Signal communications provided for the commander were radio, wire, rockets and mounted and foot messengers. [ ] no information on the use of signal flags, heliograph, panels or pigeons. [ ] communications lines were laid from the right to the left at every level of command.

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#### (a). Use of Communications in Attack

During the planning phases of an attack wire was used as the primary means of communications and only after the attack began would communications be switched to radio. Prior to this the regimental commander had briefed the battalion and company commanders concerning the types of communications to be used. Regiment was responsible for communications to include battalion level. Battalion was responsible for company communications. There was one platoon of signal personnel at regiment and one at battalion level. Each platoon consisted of one squad of about 10 radio personnel and three squads of wire personnel of about eight per squad.

#### (b). Use of Wire Communications in Defense

In defensive position wire was used exclusively. [ ] information on wire networks and methods used was very limited. [ ] wire methods were used when in defense, and [ ] there were switchboards at regimental and battalion level with lines extending from them to [ ] the various commanders, supply sections, observers, message centers, etc.

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#### (4). Signal Operations Instruction

Signal Operations Instructions (SOI) were prepared at division level, signed by the Chief of Communications, and authenticated by an unidentified officer. The SOI was disseminated down to company level but each unit received only that portion of the SOI that pertained to it. [ ]

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#### (5). Signal Repair and Spare Equipment

All signal equipment was sealed and no unauthorized person was allowed to break the seal to effect repairs, no matter how minor they may have been. The lowest echelon of repair was at Corps level. [ ] no further information on the type of unit that would accomplish this, or if this held true for both peace and war time.

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Spare items of signal equipment were maintained at both battalion and regimental level. [ ]

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#### (6). Physical Security and Interference Procedures

Reservists were taught to camouflage equipment with any available material. They received no instruction on any special methods of camouflage.

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No special instruction was given on what to do in the event of jamming, except to shift frequency.

i. Text Books

[redacted] instructors came to classrooms with prepared notes and without books of any kind. Students were required to take notes; no books were issued to them at any time. [redacted] there may have been reference books in the school library [redacted]

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[redacted] In any event students were not allowed to remove any book from the library.

j. Soviet Advisors at the School

Although it was never openly stated that the communications tactics taught at the school were of Soviet origin, [redacted] it was common knowledge that this was the case. There were no Soviet advisors present [redacted]

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k. Release after Completion of Training at ZEGRZE

The period of active duty training for reservists ended the latter part of June 1953. All of the students [redacted] graduated [redacted]

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[redacted] At this time all military clothing and equipment was returned to the supply room and exchanged for the civilian clothing which had been turned in three months earlier. Identity books were returned with a notation that the holder had completed his first three month period of compulsory training. They were also issued travel orders and a letter to their respective employers stating that the bearer had been in reserve training for three months. This letter entitled each reservist to one month's full wages and wages at the rate of 50 percent for the remaining two months.

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4. Reserve Signal Training During 1954

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## c. Mission and Composition of the 1st Army Corps Signal Battalion

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[redacted] the 1st Army Corps Signal Battalion had a dual responsibility, that of providing normal corps signal communication and that of training all types of signal personnel. [redacted]

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[redacted] during the time [redacted] at the Jaworze training area the battalion consisted of five companies, they were: The Wire Operations Company which had the responsibility of operating all wire communications systems for the 1st Army Corps Headquarters in the field and in and around the training area; The Operational Radio Company which operated all radio communications in the field and in and around the training area; The Officers Reserve Training Company with responsibility of training officer reservists; The Training Company which trained two year conscripts. These personnel trained one year with the Training Company, then they were assigned to a regular army unit for one additional year; The ROTC Company which had the responsibility of training ROTC students during their 30 day summer practical training period. The ROTC Company was operational only two months of each year, training two groups of ROTC personnel for 30 days each.

[redacted] no information concerning the exact number of personnel assigned to these companies.

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5. Officers Reserve Training in 1956

[redacted] attached to an unidentified signal battalion of the Warsaw Military District, and [redacted] present at BIALOBRZEGI for three months. While here [redacted] assigned as Platoon Leader of a platoon in an officer reserve company. [redacted]

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[redacted] instructions received during this period involved various kinds of radio sets, telephone equipment, laying of field wire, pole line construction, telephone centrals, teletype operations, cable construction and various other subjects.

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The training period was for 12 weeks on paper [redacted] only seven weeks were occupied with actual training or instruction, the remainder being used for general barracks and camp cleanup activities. [redacted]

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Comments:

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2. WKR (Wojskowa Komenda Rejonowa) Army Regional Headquarters.

3. [ ] could not explain why a Corps Signal Battalion had the dual responsibility of maintaining corps signal communications and that of training signal personnel.

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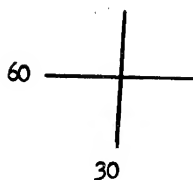
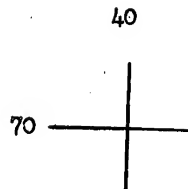
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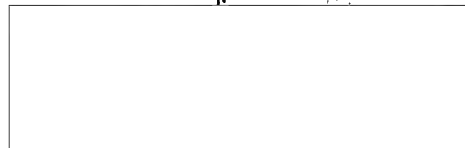
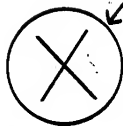
Annex A

Pinpoint Location of JAWORZE Training  
Area

Map Ref: LABES, Germany  
Scale : 1:100,000



Bivouac Area in JAWORZE



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